



Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. Canceled.
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4 wherein said ~~providing-granting~~ step includes the step of comparing said second trust rating to a predetermined trust rating threshold and wherein said predetermined criteria comprises said predetermined trust rating threshold.

3. Canceled.

4. (Currently amended) A method for evaluating a set of credentials comprising at least one group credential in response to a request to access a resource, comprising:

ascertaining at least one first trust rating explicitly included within at least one of said credentials within said set of credentials including said group credential, wherein each of said first trust ratings ~~is associated with~~ represents a level of confidence in information being certified within the respective credential;

in the event said set of credentials ~~forms~~ comprises a plurality of certification paths having at least one credential in each of said paths, determining, for each certification path of said plurality of certification paths, a respective third trust rating equal to ~~the~~ a lowest first trust rating in the credentials of the respective certification path;

~~determining in the event said set of credentials does not comprise a~~ plurality of certification paths, setting a second trust rating for said set of

~~credentials based, at least in part, upon an analysis of said~~ to a lowest first trust rating of the ~~at least one first trust rating by assigning said second trust rating equal to the highest trust rating of said third trust ratings;~~

20 in the event said set of credentials comprises a plurality of certification paths, setting the second trust rating for said set of credentials to a highest third trust rating of said third trust ratings; and

granting access to the resource in the event said second trust rating satisfies predetermined criteria.

Claims 5 - 7: Canceled

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4~~claim 7~~ wherein said resource comprises a file on a file server.
9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4~~claim 7~~ wherein said resource comprises a web page.
10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4~~claim 7~~ wherein said resource comprises a secure area.
11. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 7~~claim 4 wherein said resource comprises a database.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein said ascertaining step further includes the step of obtaining an identity credential trust rating associated with an identity credential within said certification path.
13. (Canceled)
14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 16 wherein said access control program further includes program code for comparing said second trust rating

to a predetermined trust rating threshold and wherein said predetermined criteria comprises said predetermined trust rating threshold.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently amended) A system for evaluating a set of credentials including at least one group credential in response to a request to access a resource, comprising:

a memory containing an access control program; and

a processor operative to execute said access control program;

said access control program comprising:

program code for ascertaining at least one first trust rating explicitly included within at least one of said credentials within said set of credentials including said group credential, wherein each of said first trust ratings ~~is associated with~~ represents a level of confidence in information being certified within the respective credential;

program code operative, in the event said set of credentials ~~forms~~ comprises plural certification paths, for determining for each certification path of said plural certification paths, a respective third trust rating equal to ~~the~~ a lowest first trust rating in the credentials ~~within of~~ the respective certification path;

program code for ~~determining setting~~, in the event said set of credentials ~~does not comprise a plurality of certification paths~~, a second trust rating for said set of credentials ~~based, at least in part, upon an analysis of said~~ to a lowest first trust rating of the at least one first trust rating ~~by assigning said second trust rating equal to the highest trust rating of said third trust ratings;~~

program code for setting, in the event said set of credentials comprises a plurality of certification paths, the second trust rating for said set of credentials to a highest third trust rating of said third trust ratings;

and

program code for granting access to the resource in the event
said second trust rating satisfies predetermined criteria.

17. (Canceled).

18. (Currently amended) A computer program product including a computer
readable medium, said computer readable medium having an access control
program stored thereon, said access control program for execution on a
processor and operable in response to a request to access a resource,
comprising:

program code for ascertaining at least one first trust rating explicitly
included within at least one credential within a set of credentials including a
group credential, wherein each of said first trust ratings ~~represents~~ is associated
with a level of confidence in information being certified within the respective
credential;

program code operative, in the event said set of credentials forms a
~~plural-plurality of~~ certification paths, for determining for each certification path of
said ~~plural-plurality of~~ certification paths, a respective third trust rating equal to
~~the a lowest first~~ trust rating in the credentials ~~within of~~ the respective
certification path;

program code for ~~determining setting, in the event said set of credentials~~
~~does not comprise a plurality of certification paths, a second trust rating for said~~
~~set of credentials based, at least in part, upon an analysis of said to a lowest~~
~~first trust rating of the~~ at least one first trust rating by assigning said second
~~trust rating equal to the highest trust rating of said third trust ratings;~~

program code for setting, in the event said set of credentials comprises a
plurality of certification paths, the second trust rating for said set of credentials
to a highest third trust rating of said third trust ratings; and

program code for granting access to the resource in the event said
second trust rating satisfies predetermined criteria.

19. (Currently amended) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave for transmission to a computer, said computer data signal including a computer program executable by the computer for use in evaluating a set of credentials in response to a request to access a resource, said computer program comprising:

program code for ascertaining at least one first trust rating explicitly included within at least one credential within said set of credentials, wherein said set of credentials includes a group credential and wherein each of said first trust ratings ~~is associated with~~ represents a level of confidence in information being certified within the respective credential;

program code operative, in the event said set of credentials ~~forms~~ comprises plural certification paths, for determining for each certification path of said plural certification paths, a respective third trust rating equal to ~~the~~ a lowest first trust rating in the credentials ~~within of~~ the respective certification path;

program code for ~~determining setting~~, in the event said set of credentials does not comprise plural certification paths, a second trust rating for said set of credentials ~~based, at least in part, upon an analysis of said~~ to a lowest first trust rating of the at least one first trust rating ~~by assigning said second trust rating equal to the highest trust rating of said third trust ratings;~~

program code for setting, in the event said set of credentials comprises plural certification paths, the second trust rating for said set of credentials to a highest third trust rating of said third trust ratings; and

program code for granting access to the resource in the event said second trust rating satisfies predetermined criteria.

20. (Currently amended) A system for evaluating a set of credentials including at least one group credential in response to a request to access a resource, comprising:

means for storing an access control program; and

means for executing said access control program out of said storing means, said access control program including:

program code for ascertaining at least one first trust rating explicitly included within at least one of said credentials within said set of credentials including said group credential, wherein each of said first trust ratings ~~is associated with~~ represents a level of confidence in information being certified within the respective credential;

program code operative, in the event said set of credentials ~~forms~~ comprises plural certification paths, for determining for each certification path of said plural certification paths, a respective third trust rating equal to ~~the~~ a lowest first trust rating in the credentials ~~within of~~ the respective certification path;

program code for ~~determining setting~~, in the event said set of credentials does not comprise plural certification paths, a second trust rating for said set of credentials based, ~~at least in part, upon an analysis of said~~ to a lowest first trust rating of the at least one first trust rating by assigning said second trust rating equal to the highest trust rating of said third trust ratings;

program code for setting, in the event said set of credentials comprises plural certification paths, the second trust rating for said set of credentials to a highest third trust rating of said third trust ratings; and

program code for granting access to the resource in the event said second trust rating satisfies predetermined criteria.

21. (Currently amended) A method for evaluating a set of credentials comprising at least one group credential in response to a request to access a resource, comprising:

ascertaining at least one first trust rating explicitly included within at least one of said credentials within said set of credentials including said group credential, wherein each of said first trust ratings ~~is associated with~~ represents a level of confidence in information being certified within the respective credential;

10 in the event said set of credentials ~~forms~~ comprises plural certification paths, determining, for each certification path of said plural certification paths, a respective third trust rating equal to ~~the~~ a lowest first trust rating in the credentials ~~within~~ of the respective certification path;

15 in the event said set of credentials does not comprise plural certification paths, setting ~~determining~~ a second trust rating for said set of credentials based, at least in part, ~~upon an analysis of said~~ to a lowest first trust rating of ~~the~~ at least one first trust rating by ~~assigning said second trust rating equal to~~ the highest trust rating of said third trust ratings;

20 in the event said set of credentials comprises plural certification paths, setting the second trust rating for said set of credentials to a highest third trust rating of said third trust ratings; and

storing said second trust rating for subsequent use in determining whether to grant access to the resource.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 further including the step of inserting said second trust rating stored in said storing step in another group credential.